

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1 to 6 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter related therein, amend Claims 7 to 16, and add new Claims 17 and 18, as follows:

Claims 1 to 6 (Cancelled).

7. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a friction member used for a vibration wave driving apparatus, comprising the steps of:

~~forming a molded member by~~ compression molding of a plastic fluoroplastic powder and fiber material to form a cylindrical molded member such that the fiber material is aligned substantially perpendicular to a direction of compressing; and

sintering ~~said the cylindrical~~ molded member; and

cutting an outer peripheral surface of the sintered cylindrical molded member by relatively rotating the sintered cylindrical molded member wherein said fiber material is aligned substantially perpendicular to a friction contact surface.

8. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a friction member used for a vibration wave driving apparatus including a vibration member, a contact member which is brought into frictional contact with the vibration member and relatively moved by vibrations produced in the vibration member, the and said friction member being formed on one of respective friction portions of the said vibration member and the contact member, the method comprising the steps of:

~~forming a molded member by compression molding of a plastic fluoroplastic powder and fiber material to form a cylindrical molded member such that the fiber material is aligned substantially perpendicular to a direction of compressing; and~~
~~sintering said the cylindrical molded member; and~~
~~cutting an outer peripheral surface of the sintered cylindrical molded member by relatively rotating the sintered cylindrical molded member wherein said fiber material is aligned substantially perpendicular to a friction contact surface.~~

9. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 7, wherein the said fiber material has a specific gravity of not less than 80% of a theoretical specific gravity of the said friction member.

10. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 8, wherein the said fiber material has a specific gravity of not less than 80% of a theoretical specific gravity of the said friction member.

11. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 7, wherein the said fiber material is carbon fiber having a length of 50 to 350 μm .

12. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 8, wherein the said fiber material is carbon fiber having a length of 50 to 350 μm .

13. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 7, further comprising the steps of:

~~forming a sheet by cutting the a sintered ~~molded~~ member to in the form of a~~
sheet; and

~~pressing the forming said sheet into a predetermined shape using by a press~~
form.

14. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 8, further comprising the steps of:

~~forming a sheet by cutting the a sintered member to in the form of a sheet; and~~
~~pressing the forming said sheet into a predetermined shape using by a press~~
form.

15. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 13, wherein the ~~said~~ sintered member is cylindrical or columnar.

16. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 14, wherein the ~~said~~ sintered member is cylindrical or columnar.

17. (New) A method according to Claim 7, wherein the plastic powder is a fluoroplastic powder.

18. (New) A method according to Claim 8, wherein the plastic powder is a fluoroplastic powder.